

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 118

Urging the return of portraits painted by Dina Babbitt during her internment at Auschwitz that are now in the possession of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2001

Ms. BERKLEY (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. FROST, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MOORE, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HINCHHEY, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FILNER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MATSUI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FRANK, and Mr. MCGOVERN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the return of portraits painted by Dina Babbitt during her internment at Auschwitz that are now in the possession of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

Whereas Dina Babbitt (formerly known as Dinah Gottliebova), a United States citizen now in her late 70's, has requested the return of watercolor portraits she

painted while suffering a year-and-a-half-long internment at the Auschwitz death camp during World War II;

Whereas Dina Babbitt was ordered to paint the portraits by the infamous war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele;

Whereas Dina Babbitt's life, and her mother's life, were spared only because she painted portraits of doomed inmates of Auschwitz-Birkenau, under orders from Dr. Josef Mengele;

Whereas these paintings are currently in the possession of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum;

Whereas Dina Babbitt is unquestionably the rightful owner of the artwork, since the paintings were produced by her own talented hands as she endured the unspeakable conditions that existed at the Auschwitz death camp;

Whereas only 22 of the approximately 3,800 Czech Jews scheduled for death at Auschwitz in March 1944 survived, and among those who were murdered were relatives of Dina Babbitt;

Whereas to continue to deny Dina Babbitt the property that is rightfully hers adds to the pain and suffering she has experienced because of her experiences at Auschwitz;

Whereas the artwork is not available for the public to view at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and therefore this unique and important body of work is essentially lost to history; and

Whereas this continued injustice can be righted through cooperation between agencies of the United States and Poland: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2   *concurring)*, That the Congress—

1           (1) recognizes the moral right of Dina Babbitt  
2           to obtain the artwork she created, and recognizes  
3           her courage in the face of the evils perpetrated by  
4           the Nazi command of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death  
5           camp, including the atrocities committed by Dr.  
6           Josef Mengele; and

7           (2) urges—

8                   (A) the President to make all efforts nec-  
9                   essary to retrieve the seven watercolor portraits  
10                  Dina Babbitt painted, while suffering a year-  
11                  and-a-half-long internment at the Auschwitz  
12                  death camp, and return them to her;

13                  (B) the Secretary of State to make imme-  
14                  diate diplomatic efforts to facilitate the transfer  
15                  of the seven original watercolors painted by  
16                  Dina Babbitt from the Auschwitz-Birkenau  
17                  State Museum to Dina Babbitt, their rightful  
18                  owner;

19                  (D) the Government of Poland to imme-  
20                  diately facilitate the return to Dina Babbitt of  
21                  the artwork painted by her that is now in the  
22                  possession of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State  
23                  Museum; and

24                  (E) the officials of the Auschwitz-Birkenau  
25                  State Museum to transfer the seven original

- 1 paintings to Dina Babbitt as expeditiously as
- 2 possible.

